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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

UTU-087809

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(UT-923)

CERTIFIED MAIL--Return Receipt Requested
Certification No.

Intrepid Potash-Wendover, LLC
Mr. Rick York
P.O. Box 1208
Moab, Utah 84532

Re: Response to Intrepid Potash Mining Plan letter from Shaw Environmental dated October 3, 2007 and Mining Plan Federal Potash Lease UTU-087909-UTU-087818, Comments to Mining Plan submitted June 15, 2006 and revised February 6, 2007.

Dear Mr. York:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a submission from Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw). The second portion of the response is for a past submittal and BLM's comments to the previous submittal. BLM has removed the over lap between the two submittals. This is our response to the submittal.

Comments:

Response to Intrepid Potash Mining Plan letter from Shaw Environmental dated October 3, 2007

1. Ditch boundary issue: BLM has met with Intrepid Wendover and has proposed a solution. The solution would be to place a fringe acreage lease around the areas in question. A letter was sent to Intrepid Wendover in Oct 2007 with BLM's recommendation. BLM is awaiting a response from Intrepid Wendover on the issue.
2. Booster Pump #2 ditch length: Length was rescaled by Shaw to verify the discrepancy. BLM agrees with this approach.
3. Salt Laydown project: This write up seems to describe the current salt laydown project.
4. Page 54 heading will be changed to include Ante Ponds. BLM agrees with this change.
5. Appendix A included the lease and ROW legal descriptions. BLM agrees with this change.
6. Operator Efficiency: Shaw proposes to use an "average operator" and "very sticky material" as shown in the CAT handbook for calculating operator efficiency. BLM agrees with this approach.
7. BLM disagrees with using the D-9 dozer: A geotechnical investigation was completed Shaw for Intrepid Wendover. The conclusions of the study were that on the northern ditches 8 psi is the

capacity of the bottom 2 feet of the embankment. Based on this analysis, the reclamation plan will include costs for a D-6 dozer for the leases north of I-80. BLM would like to note that only certain D-6 dozers will meet this specification. Most may not be available for rent. A solid choice would be a D-6 LGP (Low Ground Pressure). This choice would not have a problem meeting the ground pressure specifications.

8. BLM is also concerned about the berm of Pond V system and the remainder of the ditches north of highway 40. The bottom of the retired pond is on hard salt and the berm is on mud. BLM recommends that all the material on the Pond V berm be handled with a D-6 along with the ditches north of highway 40. BLM would like a copy of the geotechnical analysis that was performed or it should be placed as part of the plan.
9. Boundary Base Map: New map provided. Shaw wants review and approval of the map. BLM has reviewed the base map. The map needs to be cleaned up and BLM has made some markings on the map. We provide the following comments. See the enclosed map.
 - a. The boundary lines need to be placed on the section lines when required.
 - b. A recommendation would be to place 2 different hatch patterns on the leases so a differentiation can be made where the pattern is complex.
 - c. The note on the surface ownership is incorrect. The State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) owns the surface on the approximately the east half of the south Federal Leases.
 - d. There are ditches shown in trespass. This may be an error and should be corrected. If the ditches are found to be in trespass, then we should resolve the trespass.
10. Brackish Well Network. The information provided in the package is incomplete. The federal and state leases should also be provided.

Response to Mining Plan Federal Potash Lease UTU-087909-UTU-087818, Comments to Mining Plan submitted June 15, 2006 and revised February 6, 2007.

1. Question. Amount of material in dikes

Answer- Took Samples

BLM request – would like to see data from Shaw analysis on the volume of the berm material.

2. Question. Surface ownership
 - a. Future Ditches. Shaw will update figure 6.14 to reflect the discrete sampling on the ditching network.
 - b. Ditch extension is not shown. Shaw will show ditch extension
 - c. No ditch sizes shown. Shaw states that ditches cross section on Figure 6.13. This is somewhat correct but top of ditch is not shown and there is no angle of cut therefore it can not be calculated. The southern ditch on Figure 6.13 in the Pond V system must be 500 feet from section 16 in T2S, R17W.
3. Question. Drainage Flow Path-
 - a. Shaw to update maps
4. Mineral Waste Disposal – Mass Balance – once monitoring system is in-place, mass balance will need to be re-calculated.
 - a. Piping of the tails specified. Shaw states it is specified on page 60 and 61. BLM would like to be more specific. What is the chemistry?
5. Discussion of lower an upper aquifer. This is ok
6. Produced Tonnage monitoring. Loading systems should be located on drawings. Description in section 4.10.4 and mag shown on 4.13. Remainder of systems should be shown on drawing.
7. Pond V system description – This is ok
8. Alluvial Fan aquifer - pump sizes will be put into the plan
9. Federal leases on new figure. This is ok.
10. UMR should be discussed. On page 88. This is ok.

11. Production monitoring. Conceptual layout drawing of the control/monitoring system will be provided.
12. The protection of natural resources does not address the salt flats.
13. Waste disposal. The spill plan is referenced in the text. This should be made or relevant sections should be made part of the plan.
14. Monitoring wells
 - a. No new monitoring wells. The plan should address the present monitoring activities.
15. Monitoring well sketch – no new monitoring wells
16. Monitoring plan required. Monitoring plan will be submitted as an appendix.
17. Monitoring effort alluvial fan aquifer– To be placed in the monitoring plan for the alluvial fan aquifer.
18. Up-date to the plan. Report monitoring data on an annual basis as per the DOGM reporting requirement.
19. Critical Brine Chemistry. Brine chemistry is in plan except HP#2. The text on page 54 states that the HP#2, Ante and A,B and C carnalite ponds are used for the same purpose. Is this correct? The carnalite ponds are where the material goes prior to the magchloride ponds. The text states the most of the sylvinite has precipitated out of solution before being moved into the carnalite pond.

If you require further information please contact Mr. Stan Perkes, (801) 539-4036.

Sincerely,

JAMES F KOHLER

James F. Kohler
Chief, Solid Minerals Branch

Enclosure 1: (Federal State Lease boundaries, Intrepid Wendover map).

cc: Salt Lake Field Office, Larry Garahana, Bill White
Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (Attn. Tom Munson)
Mine Files - UTU-087809
Chron

SPerkes:sa:11/01/07

Intrepid mineplancomments11-01-07SP-SA